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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,811	01/28/2000	John W. Becker	7436.100A	1405

7590 06/03/2005

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EXAMINER

DESAI, HEMANT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3721

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/492,811	Applicant(s) BECKER ET AL.	
	Examiner Hemant M. Desai	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/2/2005 (R.C.E.).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 60-62 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-59 and 63-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/2/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section n 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 13-17, 20, 22-26, 28-47, 50-59 and 63 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bangs (2194412) in view of Aghassipour (5595320).

Bangs discloses an inner container (10, fig. 1), designed to be removably inserted into an outer container (1, fig. 1) comprising a bottom (see fig. 1), collapsible (clearly inherent since material of inner container being flexible, see lines 37-38, page 1) opposing first and second side walls (see fig. 1) and front and back walls (fig. 1), each constructed of a flexible material (see lines 37-38, page 1), the first and second side walls and the front and back walls forming an integral moisture proof seal with the

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bottom and each other (see fig. 1), an integral foldable side, front and back flaps (fig. 1), extending above the side walls, front wall and back wall, comprising a top edge that is substantially straight along its entire length (see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 17, Bangs, discloses that front and back walls (see fig. 1) each have a gusseted reinforcement.

Regarding claims 20,22 and 30, Bangs discloses that the front flap is connected to the edges of both the first and second side flaps and they are integral (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 23-24, Bangs discloses that the top is formed with the front and back flaps folded (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 25, 31 and 39, Bangs discloses that the bottom is substantially flat.

Regarding claims 26, 28-29, 35, all flaps are substantially the same height and are connected.

Regarding claims 41, 42, 45, wherein the height of walls and the flaps is adjustable, since after filling the content in the inner container at desirable height the top can be folded over the content since the inner container is flexible (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 32-33, 34, 36 and 40, Bangs discloses that the inner container is collapsible and since the inner container is flexible (see lines 37-38) it is an inherent design feature that side walls are perpendicular to the bottom in the open position and parallel to the bottom in the folded position and the side walls in the folded position have a length and width that is no greater than the bottom.

Regarding claim 44, the flap is movable from an open position extends above the outer container (see fig. 1) to second position wherein it completely closes the inner container and is contained entirely within the outer container (see fig. 2).

Regarding claims 53, 54 and 59, Bangs discloses that all the four walls forming an integral moisture proof seal with the bottom and each other and the top is movable from the open position to a closed position and back to the open position, therefore the modified metalized bottom and the side and front and back walls are forming an integral moisture proof seal with each other and with the bottom and the top is movable from the open position to a closed position and back to the open position.

Regarding claims 50 and 51, the metalized surface is not located in airtight pouch and not movable independent from the front and sidewalls.

Regarding claims 52 and 55, Bangs discloses that the inner container is not adhered to the outer container when it is inserted therein.

Regarding claims 63, Bangs discloses that the inner container is of flexible nature and therefore it inherent that the content is less the height is less than the height of the outer container and when content is more (to its fullest capacity) the height of the inner container and outer container is same (see fig.2).

Regarding claim 66, Bangs discloses that the inner container is not adhered to the outer container.

Bangs, as mentioned above, disclosed all the limitations, except for an insulating material having a metalized surface and flexible bubble pack material. However, Aghassipour teaches an insulating material having a metalized surface (15, fig. 1a-1b)

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extending throughout the wall and flexible bubble pack material (14, fig. 1a-1b) to keep cold contents cold for substantially long periods of time (see col. 1, lines 45-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time of invention to provide an insulating material in the container of Bangs having a metalized surface extending throughout the wall and flexible bubble pack material as taught by Aghassipour to keep perishable contents cold for substantially long periods of time.

4. Alternatively, Claims 33-34 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bangs and Aghassipour, as applied to claims 13 and 37, and further in view of McCord (728749).

This rejection is made to further show the well-known use of collapsible container in the packaging art. The container of Bangs as modified by Aghassipour meets all the limitations of claims 33-34 and 40, except for the side walls are movable from a first open position substantially perpendicular to the bottom to a second folded position substantially parallel to the bottom.

However, McCord teaches a collapsible container (A, figs. 1-5) having collapsible side walls (A3, figs. 1-3) and the top edge that is substantially straight along its entire length (see figs. 1-3) to provide a strong box and at the same time one which can be readily folded whenever desired (see lines 75-79). McCord teaches that sidewalls are perpendicular to the bottom in the open position and parallel to the bottom in the folded position (see figs. 2 and 5) and the sidewalls in the folded position have a length and width that is no greater than the bottom (see fig. 5). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time of invention to provide a collapsible

side walls box structure as taught by McCord in the modified inner container of Bangs to provide a stronger box and at the same time one which can be readily folded whenever desired.

5. Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bangs in view of Aghassipour, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Becker (4929094).

The modified container of Bangs, as mentioned above, disclosed all the limitations, except for a selectively releasable means for securing the portion of the first side flap to a portion of the second side flap. However, Backer teaches a selectively releasable means (82, 84, fig. 2) for securing the portion of the first flap to a portion of the second flap (see col. 3, lines 25-30). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the selectively releasable means as taught by Backer in the modified container of Bangs for convenience of securing the top flaps of the inner container.

6. Claims 48-49, 64-65 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bangs in view of Aghassipour as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Becker (4929094).

The container of Bangs as modified by Aghassipour meets all the limitations of claims 48-49 and 64, except for the inner box is inserted directly into the outer container.

However, Baker teaches to insert the insulated inner container (12, fig. 1) directly into the outer container (10, fig. 1). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to insert the insulated inner container of Bangs directly into the outer container without the insulating pad assembly to provide the ease and convenience in packaging and removal and placement of the inner container.

Regarding claim 65, Bangs discloses that the inner container is completely covered but does not provide an airtight seal (see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 67, Bangs discloses that the inner container is not adhered to the outer container.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-59 and 63-67 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hemant M. Desai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4458. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM-5: 30 PM, Mon-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hemant M. Desai.

Hemant M Desai
Examiner
Art Unit 3721

HMD